

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 02802

EMBASSY PLEASE PASS RVN FOREIGN MINISTER FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM AMBASSADOR LE VAN LOI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: RVN AMBASSADOR LE VAN LOI'S REPORT

REF: GENEVA 2003; STATE 64460

1. BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH KENYA. I HAVE NOT MET
WITH KENYA FOREIGN MINISTER OR HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS.
PROTOCOL OFFICER SAID THEY ARE TOO BUSY TO MEET DELEGATES
ATTENDING CONFERENCE GROUP 77.

2. AT CONFERENCE GROUP 77 WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH TWO
SERIOUS ISSUES:

A. KENYAN NEW YORK MISSION INVITED NORTH KOREA AND
NORTH VIETNAM TO ATTEND ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT MEMBERS
OF GROUP 77. NORTH VIETNAM HAS NOT COME BUT NORTH KOREA
SENT FIVE-MAN DELEGATION. NO OTHER DELEGATION INCLUDING
SOUTH KOREA WANTED TO RAISE ISSUE AS THEY WANT TO AVOID
UNDUE EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO SOME
DELEGATIONS WORKING GROUP OF 77 IN NEW YORK SUGGESTED
KENYAN PERMANENT MISSION INVITE ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
THAT WILL ATTEND CARACAS. AFTER STRENUOUS NEGOTIATIONS
WITH CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF BU
OAU, THEY

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ACCEPTED MY FORMAL PROPOSAL TO LIST DELEGATIONS OF

NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES OF GROUP 77 AS OBSERVERS.

B. IN DISCUSSIONS ON REPORT OF NEW YORK WORKING GROUP ON LAW OF THE SEA I DECLARED QTE MY DELEGATION CANNOT SUPPORT PROPOSALS ON ARCHIPELAGOS AS DEFINITION OF ARCHIPELAGO, OF ARCHIPELAGIC STATES, DELIMITATION OF ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS SHOULD REQUIRE FURTHER ELABORATION. WE SUGGEST THAT ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SHOULD CARRY OUT INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO COME TO AN AGREED TEXT BEFORE CARACAS. UNQTE

3. DELEGATIONS OF INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES PRESSED ME IN BRUTAL MANNER TO WITHDRAW MY RESERVATIONS AND INSISTED THAT RVN SHOULD SUPPORT PROPOSED TEXT WHICH WAS DRAFTED BY THEM IN NEW YORK. I RESISTED THEIR DIKTAT. THEY RESORTED TO THREATS AND BLACKMAIL THAT THEY WILL WITHDRAW THEIR POLITICAL SUPPORT TO RVN IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND REPORT TO MANILA TO ASK OUR GOVERNMENT TO GIVE IN TO THEIR REQUEST. I EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO SAFEGUARD FULL RIGHTS TO RVN ON PARACELS AND SPARTLEYS AND THEIR ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS. THE PROPOSED TEXT WAS NOT CLEAR ENOUGH AND WOULD GIVE THE CHINESE GROUND FOR FURTHER ENCROACHMENT ON OUR CONTINENTAL SHELF. THEREFORE I CANNOT SURRENDER OUR NATIONAL INTEREST TO COMPLY TO THE PHILIPPINE REQUEST UNLESS I RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM YOU.

4. FINALLY I ARRIVED AT THE FOLLOWING COMPROMISE WITH INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES: THE RVN DELEGATION WILL NOT OBJECT TO THE PROPOSALS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT BUT WILL RESERVE ITS POSITION AND FINAL DECISION IN CARACAS.

5. I THEREFORE SUBMIT FOLLOWING PROPOSAL FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: THAT OUR EXPERTS STUDY TEXT AND FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS AND PREPARE AMENDMENTS AND COUNTER-PROPOSALS, THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WE WILL DISCUSS WHOLE MATTER WITH PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA. THE FIRM STAND OF YOUR DELEGATION IN CONFIDENTIAL

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NAIROBI WILL STRENGTHEN OUR BARGAINING POSITION. IT IS OBVIOUS PRESENT TEXT GIVES THE ARCHIPELAGIC STATES, I.E. PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA, OVER-EXPANDED LIMITS. THROUGH METHOD OF STRAIGHT BASELINES JOINING OUTERMOST POINTS OF OUTERMOST ISLANDS AND DRYING REEFS OF ARCHIPELAGO WILL ENTITLE THEM TO TAKE A FAR GREATER SHARE OF OUR CONTINENTAL SHELF AND ECONOMIC ZONE.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH OMAN.

THE LEADER OF THE OMAN DELEGATION, MINISTER AL JAMAILI, WHO I MET IN SANTIAGO IN 1972 AND IN GENEVA WHEN HE LED HIS DELEGATION TO THE SEABED CONFERENCE (WHERE I ASKED HIM TO SOUND OUT HIS GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS), HAS INFORMED ME THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED NOW TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY OUR PROPOSAL. HE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME: ON APRIL 5 HE WILL GO BACK TO MUSCAT VIA CAIRO, HE WILL HAND OVER A NOTE SIGNED BY ME ON YOUR BEHALF TO PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WE ARE DRAFTING AT THE SAME TIME THE FOLLOWING JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE SUBMITTED TO HIS GOVERNMENT:

QTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAVE DECIDED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES.

QTE THE TWO COUNTRIES, BOTH MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77, WILL PROMOTE THEIR ECONOMIC AND TRADE CO-OPERATION IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THEIR RESPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICULARLY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WITH REGARD TO RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENTS.

QTE THIS JOINT COMMUNIQUE WILL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. UNQTE

7. AROUND APRIL 20TH, MINISTER AL JAMAILI WILL RETURN TO GENEVA TO SEE ME WITH THE FINAL DECISION OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE PUBLISHED AT THE SAME TIME IN SAIGON AND MUSCAT ON AN AGREED DATE. HE THINKS HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT OUR AMBASSADOR IN SAUDI ARABIA TO BE ACCREDITED TO MUSCAT. MINISTER AL JAMAILI IS WILLING TO HELP US FOR A QUICK
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DECISION BY THE OMAN GOVT. BECAUSE HE KNOWS SYRIA AND IRAQ ARE TRYING TO PERSUADE HIS GOVERNMENT AND OTHER GULF STATES NOT TO FOLLOW SAUDI ARABIA IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH RVN. WE HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY TO PRE-EMPT THEIR ADVERSE ACTION. MINISTER AL JAMAILI ASKED ME TO ACC
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